

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-19 are pending, claims 2 and 4 are canceled and new claims 20-27 are presented. This response is accompanied by an information disclosure statement and one sheet of drawing corrections.

Figure 1 has been amended to schematically show latch 12 as a separate feature from the pawl pin 14. A corrected drawing sheet is enclosed with this response. In paragraph 16, "a C post" is not referring to an item in the figures, and is provided as an example of where a striker can be mounted, i.e. "such as a B post or a C post". The "pivot C" is properly shown in the figures and referenced in the specification. For this reason, Applicant has not amended the specification with regard to "C-post". The specification has been amended to correct informalities as suggested by the Examiner. Further, claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended to correct informalities as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 19 has been amended to fulfill the requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wegner (U.S. Patent No. 6,116,664). Wegner discloses a lock that includes two coupling elements (1.11) movable by an inside or outside handle (4,3). A coupling member (2.6) is moved by a solenoid (2) and lever (2.4). Stops (1.26A and B) disposed on the coupling elements engage the coupling member (2.6), and the coupling member in turn engages a stop (1.27) disposed on a pawl (1.9). When the coupling member (2.6) is disposed between the stops (1.26A and B) and stop (1.27) the pawl 1.9 rotates to free claw 1.1. Movement of the coupling member (2.6) from between the stops (1.26A, 1.26B and 1.27) disables movement of the pawl (1.9) and unlatching of the claw (1.1).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the further limitation that a release link 28 having an abutment 22 and that the abutment 22 is aligned with the release mechanism 14 in an unlocked position. Wegner does not include a release link having an abutment movable between aligned and mis-aligned positions relative to the release element 14. The stops (1.26A, 1.26B and 1.27) are not movable between an aligned and mis-aligned position, and therefore does not disclose all limitations present in amended claim 1.

Applicant has included new independent claims 20, 21 and 23. Claim 20 includes the limitation that a release link moving in an arcuate path such that an abutment initially moves

arcuately into engagement with a latch release mechanism, and then moves linearly to engage and move a latch release element between latched and unlatched positions. Wegner does not include a release link moving in an arcuate path. Claim 21 includes the limitation that a part of the release mechanism is held in a rest position by a magnet. Wegner does not include a magnet to prevent a release mechanism from moving to a release position. Claim 23 includes the limitation that a release link includes an abutment movable between a misaligned position with the release element, and an unlocked position where the abutment is aligned with the release element. The abutments in Wegner are never in an aligned position relative to each other.

Accordingly, this application is condition for allowance and applicant requests such action. With regard to the new claims, please use this as authorization to charge any fees for additional claims (over 20) to our deposit account, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, number 50-1482.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached documents and fees are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 12th day of May 2003



Stefanie R. Hernandez